

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, PINT, PFOR, CA

SUBJ: APPEAL COURT RULES INDIANS HAVE NO CLAIM ON LARGE

TRACT OF NWT LAND

1. PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE APPEAL COURT FOR THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES (NWT) RULED ON NOV 12 THAT INDIANS IN THE NWT HAVE NO RIGHT TO AN INTEREST IN 450,000 SQUARE MILES. THIS OVERTURNED A RULING BY THE LOWER COURT THAT ALLOWED INDIANS TO FILE A CAVEAT CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE LAND.

2. INDIAN BORTHERHOOD, WHICH CLAIMED INDIANS HAD ABORIGINAL RIGHTS TO THE AREA IN QUESTION, SAID IT WOULD APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE SUPREME COURT.

3. COMMENT: THE APPEAL COURT DECISION WAS NOT UNANIMOUS; INTERESTINGLY THE APPEAL COURT SAT IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA WHEREAS THE ORIGINAL COURT RULED FOLLOWING A SERIES OF HEARING THROUGHOUT THE NORTH. THE OUTCOME OF THE FINAL APPEAL WILL BE IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY EVEN THOUGH THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF A CAVEAT MAY NOT HAVE THAT MUCH SIGNIFICANCE. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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